

TESTIMONY OF Minnie Jessica Garcia
Committee on Children
February 17, 2015

Good evening Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and members of the Committee on Children. My name is Minnie Jessica Garcia, and I am a preschool teacher at The Village Early Childhood Learning Center. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you this evening.

I support HB 6595, AN ACT EXEMPTING BABY DIAPERS FROM THE SALES TAX; this bill would include baby diapers as exempt from the sales tax in Connecticut in the same manner as adult diapers, which are already tax exempt as a medical necessity.

WRITE YOUR OWN WORDS HERE ABOUT WHY DIAPERS SHOULD BE TAX EXEMPT.
HERE ARE SOME FACTS YOU COULD USE:

- In low-income households, babies often spend the entire day or longer in a single diaper. Inadequate diaper changing increases the risk of numerous health problems including diaper rash and an increased rate of hepatitis.
- There are no federal subsidies for diapers. Families cannot use SNAP (Foodstamps) or WIC to purchase diapers.
- Most licensed day care centers do not accept cloth diapers, and require parents and caregivers to provide a steady supply of disposable diapers. Low-income parents cannot take advantage of free or subsidized childcare if they cannot afford to leave disposable diapers at childcare centers. If parents cannot access daycare, then they are less able to attend work or school on a consistent basis. This in turn leads to increased economic instability and a continuation of the cycle of poverty.
- Most people living in poverty do not have affordable access to washing facilities. Furthermore, most coin-operated laundromats do not allow customers to wash cloth diapers for health and sanitary reasons.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter!

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